

the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) There are several villages all over the country including Uttar Pradesh which are located in forest areas. To expedite the processing of cases, the guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been relaxed for construction of link roads which directly benefit the people of the area by accepting compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted instead of insisting on equivalent non-forest land. Moreover, proposals upto 5 ha. are disposed of by the Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) of the Ministry. Proposals involving forest land between 5 to 20 ha. are processed by the Regional offices of the Ministry in consultation with the state level Advisory Group and sent to the Ministry to for final decision.

Export Agreement

2485. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has signed any export agreement during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) During 1995-96, the Fruits and Vegetable Project, a pilot project, of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed an agreement for exports of fruits, vegetables products and other related products manufactured at the export oriented unit in Mumbai. The production from this unit would start in 1997-98. Also in 1995-96; Indian Immunologicals, another unit of the NDDB, has signed an agreement for promotion of biologicals and animal health products in Bangladesh. No exports have so far taken place.

[Translation]

Open Sale Prices of Wheat

2486. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the open sale price of wheat and rice recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the reasons for this price hike in the open market price of wheat and rice; and

(d) its impact on the common man and farmers already hit by the high prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Open sale prices of wheat were increased in the month of February, 1997. The open sale prices of rice were last revised on 28.6.96 and were made effective from 1.7.96 and are still applicable.

(b) Statements indicating the open sale prices of wheat and rice as on date are at statement I and II respectively.

(c) Keeping in view the wide gap in the market prices vis-a-vis open sale prices notified by the Government to neutralise the freight element paid by FCI in moving wheat from procuring areas to consuming areas, to reduce the subsidy burden on open sale, and to discourage the traders from making undue profit, the Government decided to revise the open sale prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997. The prices of rice, however, have not been revised after July, 1996.

(d) The sales of wheat and rice in the open market have a sobering effect on the market prices. Had there not been open sales the price-rise would have been higher.

Statement-I

Statement Indicating Prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997 till further Orders.

S.No.	Name of the Major Centre	Rate Rs./per MT
1	2	3
1.	Guwahati	7500
2.	Mumbai	7400
3.	Nagpur	7400
4.	Indore	7200
5.	Gualior	6000
6.	Raipur	7400
7.	Ahmedabad	7300
8.	Surat	7300
9.	Cuttack	7400
10.	Bhubaneswar	7400
11.	Patna	6500
12.	Ranchi	7000
13.	Calcutta	7400
14.	Siliguri	7400
15.	Delhi	5000
16.	Chandigarh	4900
17.	Lucknow	5400
18.	Kanpur	5400